

NARRATIVE

Cicero Preparatory Academy was approved for 180 instructional days in its application. In creating the calendar for the FY15 school year the administrative staff with the approval of the school's Board of Directors set the number of instructional days at 175.

The reason for reducing the number of instructional days was two-fold: a) to provide more instructional time per period per day and b) to provide additional non-instructional days within the school year for professional development for teachers. Both of these actions result in improved pupil achievement since a) increasing the amount of instructional time per period provides time for more intense and focused instruction and for teachers to spend more time with students who may require additional help in understanding the concepts presented in the lesson and b) providing additional days for professional development increases the effectiveness of the school's teachers in delivering instruction and meeting students' academic needs.

The school calendar and daily instructional schedule provided demonstrate compliance with ARS §15-901 regarding instruction for each grade served as follows:

Explanation of the Calendar

The Calendar shows the total number of instructional half-days (25), early release days (0) and full days (150), which add to the total 175 instructional days for the year.

Explanation of the Daily Instructional Schedule

The Daily Instructional Schedule for each grade (6, 7) provides two tables: the one on the left shows the periods that meet on each full day and half day and the total amount of non-instructional time, instructional time, and passing period time for each category; in grades 6-12, passing minutes count as instructional minutes if they occur between instructional classes. The total instructional minutes (shown in the column labeled Attendance Minutes Countable) for full days is highlighted in blue and for half days in orange. These color-coded instructional minutes are carried over to the table on the right, which displays the number of full days and half days for each month of the school year in the green columns. The color-coded instructional minutes are at the top of each green column with the total number of days in each category (full day, half day) at the bottom of each green column. Multiplying the total number of days in each category by the number of instructional minutes at the top of each column provides the total number of instructional minutes per year for each category, which is the number in red below each green column. Dividing each of these red numbers by 60 provides the number of instructional hours per year for each category, which is the number in blue below the number in red. The total instructional hours is at the bottom of column 5.

For Cicero Preparatory Academy, the total number of instructional hours provided per year in each grade served compared to the number required by ARS §15-901 is:

GRADE	INSTRUCTIONAL HRS PROVIDED	INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS REQUIRED
6	1,010.42	890
7	1,010.42	1,000

In every grade, as shown by the Daily Instructional Schedule, the number of instructional hours provided by Cicero Preparatory Academy in its 175 day calendar is greater than the number of instructional hours required by ARS §15-901, thereby demonstrating compliance with the statute.

The timeline for implementing the 175 day calendar is the FY15 school year.